

E 449

.I68

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



00001737879

Francis Jackson Esq.

ADDRESS
OF THE
IRISH UNITARIAN CHRISTIAN
SOCIETY
TO THEIR
BRETHREN IN AMERICA.

BOSTON:
OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD.
1846.

E444

I68

X

ADDRESS

OF THE IRISH UNITARIAN CHRISTIAN SOCIETY
TO THEIR BRETHREN IN AMERICA.

Christian Friends : — In forwarding to you the accompanying Resolution, which was unanimously adopted by our Society on the 14th of May last, we desire again to address you in that spirit of brotherly kindness, which should attract all the members of the human family, more particularly such portions of it as are united together in the same bonds of Christian fellowship.

Upwards of two years have now elapsed since we sent you our greetings through the Rev. Dr. Gunnett, of Boston. These greetings, we regret to say, still remain unacknowledged, and unresponded to, for no other reason that we can assign, but because we made allusion in them to the painful subject of SLAVERY in your States.

Surely, brethren, this is not as it ought to be ! Surely your action, as a body, on this moment-

ous subject, is far from consistent with the high and holy vocation of Unitarian Christianity! It is indeed, we believe true, (and we delight in so believing,) that in the Free (or so-called Free) States of your Union, none are more active than some Unitarians in zeal for the abolition of Slavery; but we cannot at the same time close our eyes upon a fact, that is to us very distressing, that this holy feeling is by no means universal among you; that great coldness still prevails on this question in your churches; and that, if there be not a positive pro-slavery sentiment prevalent amongst you, there is at least an unmanly, and, as appears to us, an unchristian inclination, to discourage the labors of those who demand, and are striving to obtain equal civil rights for all alike, be their color or complexion what it may.

Brethren, it is vain to imagine that this question of Slavery is one on which it is guiltless to stand neutral and inactive. It is a question, of which you can by no possibility get rid, or so much as cast into the shade. Your country can never assume her true place among the nations of the earth, while this stigma rests on her escutcheon: she will be but a drag-chain on our common Christianity, till this foul blot

shall be erased from her otherwise free institutions.

But, brethren, a recent event which has taken place amongst you, leads us with joy to exchange our language of remonstrance for the voice of heart-felt gratulation. We rejoice, we rejoice with our whole hearts, because of the noble "Protest against Slavery," lately issued by one hundred and seventy-three ministers of our denomination in your land. We congratulate you upon the occurrence, as affording a convincing proof that Unitarians in America are at length becoming sensitively alive to the great sinfulness of holding human beings in slavery. We deeply sympathise with all our brethren who are thus engaged in Christian labors, to "break every chain and let the oppressed go free." We thank them for coming forward on behalf of their outraged fellow-men. We know not how this great question of emancipation for all who are in bonds, is to be brought about in your country; but that it will be accomplished and at no distant day, we cannot allow ourselves to doubt. And we are anxious that Unitarians, every where, should be foremost in the ranks of those who are working for its overthrow. Ev-

ery Unitarian should be known as an abolitionist. May those of you who are lukewarm on this question so vital to Christianity, soon shake off your apathy, and may all who feel a deep interest in it, renew their zeal on the altar of Freedom, and press forward with increased enthusiasm in her holy cause.

We entreat you, Friends and Brethren, to go on undauntedly in your glorious cause. Never cease from your labors, until every Unitarian, the world over, shall boldly and honestly proclaim, that CHRISTIANITY HOLDS NO FELLOWSHIP WITH SLAVEHOLDING. Be not satisfied with a declaration of sentiments on this matter, but let every man, — who by holding and buying and selling human beings, acts in violation of his own nature, and of course in opposition to the innate convictions of his soul, — feel that he is looked upon as a man, who, in the language of the noble Protest alluded to, “commits the greatest possible robbery, and the greatest possible wrong.”

With sincere desires for the spread of Unitarian Christian opinions, which we believe to be in accordance with the letter and the spirit of our Saviour’s Gospel,

We remain, brethren,

Your affectionate friends,

[Signed by order and on behalf of the Irish Unitarian Christian Society.]

DANIEL HUTTON, President.

W. H. DRUMMOND, D. D.	} Members of Committee.
GEO. A. ARMSTRONG, A. B.	
JAMES HAUGHTON.	

ROBERT ANDREW, F. R. S. L., Secretary.

The following is the Resolution referred to in the above Address,—moved by James Haughton, seconded by John Falconer :

Resolved, That whilst we have perused with hopefulness and gratification, the answer returned by our Unitarian brethren in America, to the address to them from the Unitarian Clergy of Great Britain and Ireland, on the subject of Negro Slavery, we cannot refrain from expressing our regret, that our brethren there have not hitherto answered the address of this Society on the same subject, long previously forwarded to them; and as our deep convictions on this momentous question remain unaltered, we consider it to be our duty to renew our appeal to our American brethren, to be unceasing in their exertions to wash out the foul stain which Negro Slavery has inflicted, and which, so long as it is tolerated, will continue to inflict on their country, and upon themselves,—and that the Committee of this Society for the ensuing year, shall be entrusted with the preparation and forwarding of a renewed Address in conformity with this resolution.



